



# Dove Mountain Hiking Club

## March 2010 Hike Schedule

**\*Unless otherwise noted, all hikes/events will meet at the Dove Mountain Park near the tennis courts. Contact hike leaders directly to RSVP for each hike or for more hike information. Remember to bring water, snacks, and a lunch if the hike calls for it.**

**Saturday, February 27**

***Atascosa Lookout Tower - Atascosa Mts.***

**Hike Leader: Ralph Reis [desertreis@comcast.net](mailto:desertreis@comcast.net)**

**Level B, 5 miles, 1549 elevation**

**Depart 7:30 am, return after 5:30 pm**

This hike takes you to one of the summits (6249 ft) of the Atascosa Mountains. The relatively steep rocky trail takes you directly to an historic abandoned lookout tower. The trail starts out in thickets of agave and ends up in a forest of pinion and junipers. On a clear day the views from the summit are spectacular. You will be able to see the Baboquivaris, Sierrita Mts, Santa Rita Mts., and deep into northern Mexico.

Previous trips to this trail we have stopped on the way back at the Cow Palace for dinner , a good idea for this trip. Bring snacks/lunch, plenty of water and suntan lotion.

This is 95 miles one way with the last 5 miles on unpaved roads. The road is dusty but accessible by passenger cars. **Car Pooling fee \$6.00 per person.**

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**Thursday, March 4**

***Work Hike in Cochie Canyon***

**Hike Leader: Gary Borax 744-5991**

**[gcborax@yahoo.com](mailto:gcborax@yahoo.com)**

**Level D & C+, 2 miles / 700 feet**

**Depart: 8:00am – Est. Return: 2:00pm**

We will drive into Cochie Canyon to work on the Cochie Canyon (west) side of the **Wild Burro to Cochie Canyon Connector Route**. The west side of the route is broken into three sections (Upper, Middle and Lower). The Upper difficult steep section is complete. The remaining work is on the Middle and Lower sections. The Lower section is .35 miles with a 150' elevation gain. The Middle section is .60 miles with a 550' elevation gain. The work primarily consists of raking/ shoveling loose rocks; lining side of trail with rocks; building Cairns; etc. This work can easily be performed by C and D hikers. Bring lunch, snacks and of water. Suggested tools are rakes, shovels and hand clippers.

**Carpool fee \$3 per person.**

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**Saturday, March 6**

***Romero Pools ... and beyond (possibly two groups)***

**Hike Leader: Marie-Paul Gallop (744-5823)**

**[mariepaulgallop@me.com](mailto:mariepaulgallop@me.com)**

**Level: B-, 5+ miles, 915 ft.**

**Depart: 8:00 am, Return: 3:00**

This hike, if enough folks are interested, will end up being two groups. All will go at least to the pools, and perhaps a little further to the upper pools - less than a mile further. Then, those who wish can hike further up the Romero Trail toward the saddle - the distance and elevation to be decided by those going further. NOTE: the distance and elevation shown above are only to the first pools. From there to the second pools is not much climbing, but after that it gets steeper, and obviously longer, but offers great views and more exposure to the upper canyon area. If hikers went as far as Romero Spring, they would travel 8+ miles RT and gain over 2000'. **Bring water, snacks and lunch. Car Pool Fee is \$3.00**

**plus fee or pass to enter Catalina State Park.**

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**Saturday, March 6**

***Bag Panther and Safford Peaks on same Hike***

Hike Leader: Gary Borax 744-5991 [gcborax@yahoo.com](mailto:gcborax@yahoo.com)

**Level A, Adventure Hike**

**5.5 miles, 2300 ft GPS elevation gain**

**Depart: 8:00am – Est. Return: 4:00pm**

We will start our hike from Sanctuary Cove and hike up to Panther Peak. As you look across the valley from Dove Mountain, Panther Peak is the right most peak of the Tucson Mountains. We are hiking on a trail some of the time, but for the most part we are hiking along a route that at times is very steep and rocky leading up to Panther Saddle. From the Saddle we will continue up a ridge to Panther Peak. We will have lunch on the Peak and then hike back down to Panther Saddle. From the Saddle we will bushwhack 1 mile along the west side of the Tucson Mountains and up to Safford Saddle. From the Saddle we will hike up a steep route to Safford Peak. We will take a break on Safford / Sombrero Peak. Depending on the angle you are looking toward the north end of the Tucson Mountains, Safford Peak in conjunction with Panther Peak looks like ½ of a Sombrero. Therefore, Safford Peak is sometimes called Sombrero Peak. After our break, we will hike down a different route back to Sanctuary Cove. Bring water, lunch and snacks. Long pants are suggested for this hike, but your hike leader will be in shorts. **Car Pool Fee is \$6.00.**

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**Thursday, March 11**

***Hike the newly flagged Goat Corral Trail***

Hike Leader: Gary Borax 744-5991

[gcborax@yahoo.com](mailto:gcborax@yahoo.com)

**Level: C+ Adventure Hike**

**6.3 miles, 900 ft total GPS elevation gain**

**Depart 8:00 am – Return 3:00 pm**

Tom Ellis is in the process of having a new trail built from Alamo Spring to the Goat Corral. I'm sure that not many of you have ever heard of the Goat Corral. The trail has been flagged by a contractor and construction is to begin in April. The Goat Corral Trail will be 2.3 miles and travel through the northern section of Tortolita Mountain Park. The trail passes very close to three Crested Saguaro that, you've never seen. One of the Crested Saguaro has a double crest. It also takes you past some really neat rock formations and provides some great views. I think hikers would enjoy hiking the proposed route of this trail and hiking it again in the fall when the trail has been completed. In order to make this a C level hike, I've made arrangements with Marana and Cottonwood Properties to drive through the Wild Burro Wash, to the old stone line shack. This saves 3.6 miles of hiking on the Wild Burro trail (rt). Long pants are suggested for this hike, but your hike leader will be in shorts. Bring water lunch and snacks. **There will be no car-pool fee, but we will need high clearance vehicles to drive into Wild Burro Canyon.**

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**Saturday, March 13**

***Cochise Stronghold***

Hike Leader: Jim & Julie Harrod 609-2849

[julesetjimtucson@comcast.net](mailto:julesetjimtucson@comcast.net)

**Level: B+, 9 miles r/t, Elev. +1075'**

**Depart: 8:00 am - Return: All day outing**

This is the makeup hike from February 20. Traveling 90 miles southeast of Tucson we will visit this striking canyon in the Dragoon Mountains where Apache Indian Chief Cochise took refuge from his enemies. The Cochise Stronghold is situated in a cross-section of the Upper Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts and has an unusual range of vegetation and beautiful rock formations. Our hike will start at the East Stronghold Canyon trailhead located in the Cochise Stronghold Campground. We'll make time to take the short interpretive "trail" with signs explaining the history of the area. We will make a steady climb up the trail, past Half-moon Tank, to the Stronghold Divide (2.9 miles & the highest point of the trail). For those wanting to do the entire route (9 mi. r/t) they can continue on to the West Stronghold trail head and then head back to the divide to meet up with the rest of the group. Bring plenty of water (no water at campground), snacks/lunch. **Carpool fee is \$7.00/person. The parking fee (CASH ONLY) at the Campground is \$5.00/car or \$2.50 with Golden Age Pass. After our hike we will stop for refreshments at the nearby Triangle T Saloon.**

***IF YOU PLAN TO JOIN US AT THE SALOON, PLEASE R.S.V.P. TO US BY MARCH 8TH SO WE CAN MAKE RESERVATIONS.***

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**Date this week TBD**

***Buffelgrass removal in Wild Burro Canyon***

Hike Leader: Gary Borax [gcborax@yahoo.com](mailto:gcborax@yahoo.com)

NOTE: this work hike was originally scheduled for Monday, Feb. 22, but was rained out. It will be rescheduled for one day the week of March 22 ... watch for update emails. In the meantime, let Gary know if you are interested. The same plan will be followed of driving into Wild Burro canyon with digging tools and a spray backpack of Roundup. There are three identified locations of buffelgrass, so with enough folks, we can divide into three groups to attack. Definitely a gloves and long pants type of "hike", but minimal distance and climbing involved.

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**Wednesday, March 17**

**Cactus Garden Loop**

Hike Leader: Joel Tormoen [joeltormoen@gmail.com](mailto:joeltormoen@gmail.com)

Level C+, 7 miles / 600 feet

Depart: 8:00am – Est. Return: 2:30pm

This hike will be a joint hike with Heritage Highlands. We'll follow Dewey Fitch and his bunch cuz they know the way. This is one more beautiful hike in this area east of Catalina in the foothills. Not too long and not too much climbing. From off Golder Ranch Rd we hike to the Cottonwoods and then up the Deer Camp trail, bypassing Deer Camp, and into the Cactus Gardens and around Hidden Peak, Lunch in there somewhere and out through the north gate and back on the 50 year trail. You will enjoy the best of cacti and rock formations with a crested saguaro thrown in. Bring lots of water and a heart healthy lunch. **\$2 per person carpool fee.**

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**Wednesday, March 17**

**Work Hike in Cochise Canyon**

Hike Leader: Gary Borax 744-5991

[gcborax@yahoo.com](mailto:gcborax@yahoo.com)

Level D & C+, 2 miles / 700 feet

Depart: 8:00am – Est. Return: 2:00pm

We will drive into Cochise Canyon to work on the Cochise Canyon (west) side of the **Wild Burro to Cochise Canyon Connector Route**. The west side of the route is broken into three sections (Upper, Middle and Lower). The Upper difficult steep section is complete. The remaining work is on the Middle and Lower sections. The Lower section is .35 miles with a 150' elevation gain. The Middle section is .60 miles with a 550' elevation gain. The work primarily consists of raking/ shoveling loose rocks; lining side of trail with rocks; building Cairns; etc. This work can easily be performed by C and D hikers. Bring lunch, snacks and of water. Suggested tools are rakes, shovels and hand clippers. **Carpool fee \$3 per person.**

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**Thursday March 18**

**Parker Canyon Lake Trail**

Hike Leader: Jim & Julie Harrod

[julesetjimtucson@comcast.net](mailto:julesetjimtucson@comcast.net)

5 miles, Level: Easy

Depart: 8:00 Return: Late afternoon

Parker Canyon Lake ([www.parkercanyonlake.com](http://www.parkercanyonlake.com)) in the San Rafael Valley emerged when, in 1966, the Arizona Game and Fish Department built an earthen dam in the southern reaches of the Canelo Hills to capture runoff from the western slopes of the Huachuca Mountains. The 5-mile Lakeshore Trail begins at the general store and boat-launch area. For the first 300 yards, the trail is paved and barrier free. It then becomes a maintained packed dirt/gravel trail. The flat yet winding trail, never more than a stone's throw from the lake's shore, draws you into patches of willow thickets, oak savannas and rolling grasslands, littered with rounded juniper trees. At about the halfway point, near the north end of the lake, the trail passes a wildlife-viewing bench, one of several along the trail that overlook the lake. **This outing is something a little different - A nice day out by a lake that many of us probably have never visited. Afterwards, on our way back to Tucson, we can stop in Sonoita/Elgin for some wine tasting/refreshments if time and interest allow. Carpool fee: \$7.00. Bring water & lunch.**

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**Sunday, March 21**

**HIKING CLUB PICNIC**

Coordinators: Joel & Judy Tormoen [joeltormoen@gmail.com](mailto:joeltormoen@gmail.com)

Remember to sign up for the hiking club picnic (details in other emails). Available hikes for the morning TBD in later email. Members FREE, guests \$5. There is a \$6 daily charge per car to enter Catalina State Park so consider carpooling.

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**Tuesday, March 23**

**Bear Canyon to 7 Falls**

Hike Leader: Joel Tormoen [joeltormoen@gmail.com](mailto:joeltormoen@gmail.com)

Level B-, about 6 miles, 700 ft.

Depart 8:00 am, Return: 3:00 pm

This is a makeup of the hike originally scheduled for February 22, although now we won't be celebrating any birthdays (unless someone surprises us or something). We'll carpool to Sabino Canyon, then take the Bear Canyon tram from the visitor center to the entrance of Bear Canyon. The trek follows the stream for several miles, and includes several crossings - be prepared for possible wet feet, and hiking sticks can be helpful for balance in the crossings. After climbing up the east side of the canyon we'll reach a spot where the 7 falls can be seen - a very beautiful sight, and very photogenic. **Bring water, snack and lunch ... and a camera if you are into photography. Car Pool Fee is \$3.00 plus each car will need either a National Park Pass, or pay the daily fee.**

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**Saturday March 27****Wasson Peak: Via the Kings Canyon Trail****Hike leader: Ralph Reis [desertreis@comcast.net](mailto:desertreis@comcast.net)****Level B, 7 miles r/t, 1,939 ft elevation gain  
Depart: 7:30 am, return about 3:30 PM**

I've scheduled this hike twice this season and both times were canceled by weather. We will try it one more time. This well maintained trail climbs to the highest peak in the Tucson Mountains at 4,687 feet. After 0.9 miles you will reach the Mam-a-Gah picnic area. The next 1.4 miles are steeper and lead to the Sweetwater Trail Junction where incredible views of Tucson and the Valley can be seen. For the next 1.3 miles numerous switchbacks lead eventually to Wasson Peak, a great lunch spot. A definite picture opportunity. Bring plenty of water, snacks/lunch.  
**Car Pool fee \$3.00 per person.**

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**Saturday, March 27****TOWN OF MARANA Hike****Upper Javelina up to the "picnic rock" and return****Hike Leader: Tom Ellis 382-1950****Level B, about 6 miles, 700'  
Depart 8:00 am Return about 3:00 pm**

**NOTE: the date of this hike is the fourth Saturday, not third. That is on purpose due to conflict with Founders' Day.** The hike will be, hopefully, a **quest to view wildflowers**. From the trailhead parking lot by the Ritz-Carlton, we'll go up the Upper Javelina Trail and part of the Wild Mustang, enjoy our lunch at the picnic rock, then return ... hoping to view lots of spring wildflowers along the way. Sponsored by the Town of Marana Parks and Rec Dept. **Meet at the Wild Burro trailhead at the south end of the Ritz parking lot ... tell the gatekeeper you are with the Town of Marana hike.** Please notify Tom Ellis at 382-1950 if you intend to do this hike. **Bring plenty of water, snack and lunch.**

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**Thursday, April 1****Upper Javelina Trail at Sunset to view the Native American Flutist****Hike Leader: Joel Tormoen**[joeltormoen@gmail.com](mailto:joeltormoen@gmail.com)**Level: C, 4 miles, Elev. 650'  
Depart: est 4:00 pm - Return: Dusk**

This is one of those "different" hikes I've wanted to do; feel free to join me. One of the "features" of the Ritz-Carlton Dove Mountain is that each day as sunset approaches, a Native American flute player "serenades" those on the patio and pool area with music celebrating the setting sun. Our plan is to park at the hotel and hike the Upper Javelina Trail, timing our effort so we are on the stretch of trail one can see from the hotel patio when the music starts. Meanwhile anyone preferring to watch from the hotel patio itself, perhaps with a beverage in hand, can choose to come down the spur trail to the front of the hotel. After the serenade, folks can either stay and enjoy the hospitality of the Ritz-Carlton, or return to their cars. Note that exact times (based on sunset) and plans will be further worked out with those who sign up for this "different" hike. **No carpool fee, but if the trailhead parking area is not available we'll use valet parking, either sharing the cost, or getting your parking ticket stamped,**

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**Tuesday, April 6****West side of the Lower Javelina Trail****Hike Leader: Joel Tormoen**[joeltormoen@gmail.com](mailto:joeltormoen@gmail.com)**Level: C-, 3 miles, 250 ft.  
Depart: 9:00 am, Return: Noonish**

This will be an easy, leisurely hike going just a little way into Wild Burro Canyon ... a great one for anyone who has not trekked back there at all, and a great one for anyone wanting a little morning exercise ... and perhaps a gelato at the hotel on the way out. Our route will take us to the state land fenceline on the Wild Burro Trail, then a short way to the point where the Lower Javelina Trail turns off. When we return to the wash after about a mile, we'll use the Wild Burro Trail to head back to the hotel area. I am trusting that the trailhead parking will be done, but if not we'll use valet parking and get our tickets stamped when we have gelato (otherwise it's only \$5). Bring water, and a snack if you like. **No carpool fee.**

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**Car Pooling & Entrance Fees: All hikes require driving to a trailhead and many require entrance fees to the various parks. Car-pooling is encouraged as well as sharing in the driving.**